GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:442
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2007
DEGRADED LAND
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Vijay Krishna Shri

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area of degraded land in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) the percentage of such land falling under agricultural category; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reclaim such land?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 442 DUE FOR REPLY ON 7TH MAY, 2007.

(a): The soil formation and erosion is a natural process occurring simultaneously to maintain the equilibrium in eco-system. As per recent study conducted by National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP), Nagpur of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), out of a total geographical area of 328.60 million ha., about 146.82million ha. area (45%) is suffering from various kinds of land degradation as per break up given below:

S.No.	Type of Land Degradation	Extent of Area in million ha.
1.	Water erosion	93.68
2.	Wind erosion	9.48
3.	Water logging	14.30
4.	Salinity/alkalinity	5.95
5.	Soil acidity	16.03
6.	Complex problem	7.38
	Total Degraded area	146.82

The State-wise and category-wise extent of degraded land and its percentage with respect to State`s geographical area are given in Annexure-1.

(b): The preliminary assessment suggests that about 50% of this area is under agricultural category.

(c): With a view to preventing land degradation and for land improvement, Government of India is implementing various Watershed Development Programmes, namely (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing the productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), (iii)Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS), (iv) Watershed Development Projects for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA), (v) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP),(vi) Desert Development Programme (DDP),(vii) Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP), (viii)Watershed Development Fund (WDF) and (ix) Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) in the country. Under these programmes, since inception upto end of X Five Year Plan about 50.83 million ha. of lands have been developed as per scheme-wise details given in Annexure-II. In addition to above programmes, a new initiative of Reclamation of Acid Soil has been taken up in the Eleventh Five Year Plan under the Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA).